

Case 3154

Scymnus splendidulus Stenius, 1952 (currently *Nephus* (*Sidis*) *splendidulus*; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed retention of the neotype as the name-bearing type despite rediscovery of the holotype

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to retain as the name-bearing type the neotype designated by Fürsch (1965) of the Mediterranean coccinellid beetle *Nephus* (*Sidis*) *splendidulus* (Stenius, 1952) despite the rediscovery of the holotype. The holotype is damaged and, unlike the neotype, does not show the aedeagal characters necessary to distinguish the species from its close relatives.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; COCCINELLIDAE; *Nephus*; *Nephus* (*Sidis*) *splendidulus*; ladybird beetles.

1. Stenius (1952, p. 155) described the coccinellid beetle *Scymnus splendidulus* from the Mediterranean region. One specimen from Morocco was selected as the holotype and another specimen from Corfu was labelled as paratype. He obtained additional specimens from Cyprus that he called *S. splendidulus* ab. *nigella*. Stenius included his species in the subgenus *Nephus*, which nowadays is generally treated as a separate genus; within *Nephus* this species is included in the subgenus *Sidis* Fürsch, 1987.

2. Fürsch (1965) revised the group of species that includes *Nephus splendidulus*. At that time the holotype could not be found. The paratype, collected in Corfu, was considered to be a distinct species and assigned to the new species *Scymnus* (*Sidis*) *meinanderi* Fürsch (1965, p. 204). The specimens from Cyprus were found to belong to the species *Nephus nigricans* (Weise, 1879). Since the group in question is taxonomically difficult, a neotype was designated for *N. splendidulus* by Fürsch (1965, p. 204). It was collected in Algeria and is labelled 'Tebessa, J. Sahlb., 4255' (Zoological Museum Helsinki type number 2659). The neotype was mentioned by Plaza (1981).

3. The holotype of *Scymnus splendidulus* Stenius, 1952 was recently rediscovered during a rearrangement of the collections in the Helsinki Museum. Comparison of the badly damaged holotype and the neotype has shown the two specimens are conspecific, but *S. splendidulus* belongs to a group of species that are difficult to distinguish by other than aedeagal characters (see Fürsch, 1987) and, unlike the (female) holotype, the neotype does have these diagnostic features. For this reason, and in accordance with Article 75.8 of the Code, we consider the retention of the neotype to be in the best interests of taxonomy and nomenclatural stability.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to confirm as the name-bearing type for *Scymnus splendidulus* Stenius, 1952 the neotype designated by Fürsch (1965) and registered as type number 2659 in the Zoological Museum, Helsinki;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *splendidulus* Stenius, 1952, as published in the binomen *Scymnus splendidulus* and as defined by the neotype designated by Fürsch (1965) and confirmed in (1) above.

References

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